

REMARKS

In the outstanding office action, claims 1-26 were presented for examination. Applicant notes with appreciation the allowance of claims 20, 21 and 26 and the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 5-8, 15-19, 22 and 22. In the outstanding office action, claims 5, 8, 16-19, 22 and 25 were objected to while claims 11-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112. In addition, claims 1-4, 9, 10, 23 and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) in view of United States Patent Publication No. 2002/0020990 by Sinnhuber et al. while claim 13 was rejected variously under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Sinnhuber et al. in view of United States Patent No. 5,303,951 issued to Goestenkers et al.

In the instant amendment claims 1-4, 9, 10, 14 and 24 have been canceled rendering the rejections with regard to the same as being moot.

Concerning the objection to the claims applicant has amended the same in accordance with the suggestions of the outstanding office action to merely make explicit that which was implicit in the claims as filed. In addition, claim 11 was amended to address the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112. No new matter has been added. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objections to claims 5, 8, 16-19, 22 and 25 and the rejection of claims 11-13 under 35 U.S.C. §112.

Allowable dependent claims 5, 8, 11, 15, 16, 17 and 23 have been amended to include the limitations of the independent claim from which they depended as well as any intervening claims, if applicable. Accordingly, claims 5, 8, 11, 15, 16, 17 and 23 are now believed to be in a condition for allowance.

Method claim 23 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 18 thus applicant respectfully submits that claim 23 is now in a condition for allowance.

The remaining claims either depend directly or indirectly from the aforementioned independent claims and accordingly, these claims are also

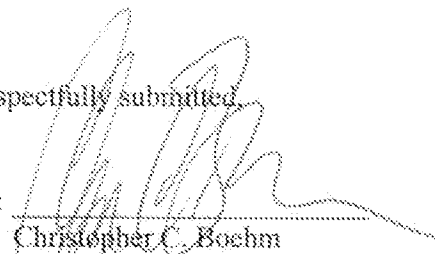
believed to be in a condition for allowance for at least the same reasons as the claims they depend from in addition to including additional limitations.

In view of the above amendments and the discussion relating thereto, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Such action is most earnestly solicited. If for any reason the Examiner feels that consultation with applicant's attorney would be helpful in the advancement of the prosecution, the Examiner is invited to call the telephone number below for an interview.

If there are any charges due with respect to this amendment or otherwise, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 06-1130, maintained by the applicant's attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

By:


Christopher C. Boehm
Reg. No. 41,624

Date: November 2, 2006
Telephone: 248 524-2300
Fax: 248-524-2700